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S E C R E T MADRID 1459

SUBJ: SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS

1. MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL AMERICAN AND FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS, AGUIRRE DE CARCER, HAS TELEPHONED EMBASSY SEVERAL TIMES TODAY (APRIL 18) REQUESTING INFORMATION, WHICH WE UNABLE TO PROVIDE, ON REPORT THAT SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, OR SUBCOMMITTEE, CONSIDERING DRAFT RESOLUTION CRITICAL OF U.S. FOREIGN "COMMITMENTS" UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT SENATE SANCTION. MAFA CITES REUTERS AND NEW YORK TIMES STORIES TO EFFECT RESOLUTION, OR ACCOMPANYING PRESS STATEMENT, ALLEGES THAT IN PRACTICE US MILITARY PRESENCE IN SPAIN REPRESENTS QUASI-COMMITMENT TO DEFEND FRANCO REGIME CONCEIVABLY EVEN AGAINST INTERNAL ENEMIES.

2. IN FIRST TELEPHONE CALL TO CHARGE, AGUIRRE SAID ACTING FONMIN FRAGA HAD CALLED HIM ON THIS REPORT EARLY MORNING AND THAT FRAGA HAD APPOINTMENT TO DISCUS SUBJECT WITH CHIEF OF STATE AT NOON.

3. AGUIRRE CALLED AGAIN AT ABOUT 1300 AND SAID SPANISH EMBASSY WASHINGTON HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED URGENTLY TO APPROACH STATE DEPARTMENT AND REPEAT AND SENATE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:

A. REITERATE SPANISH RESPECT FOR CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESSES OF U.S.

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B. ASSERT GOS EXPECTS TO HEAR FROM U.S. GOVERNMENT IN AUTHORITATIVE AND UNAMBIGUOUS MANNER U.S. VIEW ON NATURE OF LEGAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH U.S. DESIRES WITH SPAIN AND TO WHICH U.S. GOVERNMENT IN POSITION TO SUBSCRIBE.

C. GOS WISHES TO MAKE UNEQUIVOCALLY CLEAR (AS AGUIRRE SAYS HE STATED TO SENIOR U.S. OFFICIALS LAST MONTH IN WASHINGTON) THAT UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WOULD IT WISH U.S. MILITARY FORCES TO INTERFERE IN ANY WAY IN INTERNAL SPANISH AFFAIRS; GOS CAREFUL IN NEGOTIATING ORIGINAL DEFENSE AGREEMENT TO RETAIN FULL SOVEREIGNTY OVER BASES; BY SAME TOKEN IT WOULD NOT TOLERATE DEROGATION THAT SOVEREIGNTY BY INTERVENTION OF ANY FOREIGN, INCLUDING AMERICAN, FORCES.

D. UNDER TERMS ARTICLE 3 DEFENSE AGREEMENT GOS ASSUMED OBLIGATION FOR EXTERNAL SECURITY OF BASES; IN EVENT, WHICH GOS DOES NOT FORESEE AS LIKELY, THERE ANY KIND OF MOVEMENT OR ACTION FROM WITHIN SPAIN AGAINST GOS OR US WHICH MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT BASES, GOS WOULD IMMEDIATELY CARRYOUT OBLIGATION TO DEFEND BASES INCLUDING U.S. PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO THEM.

E. IF REPORTED RESOLUTION IS APPROVED BY SENATE, GOS WILL WISH URGENTLY TO KNOW ATTITUDE OF U.S. GOVERNMENT ON RESOLUTION AND ITS EFFECT ON BASE AGREEMENT.

4. IN REPLY TO A QUESTION, AGUIRRE SAID THERE MAY BE SOME PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM SPANISH OFFICIAL SOURCES ON THIS SUBJECT. BUT HE DOUBTED ANY OFFICIAL STATEMENT WOULD BE MADE BEFORE SPANISH EMBASSY WASHINGTON CARRIES OUT FOREGOING INSTRUCTIONS. AGUIRRE COMMENTED SPANISH CORRESPONDENTS IN U.S. WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE REPORTING ON REUTERS AND NEW YORK TIMES NEWS ITEMS AND COULD BE EXPECTED TO MAKE THEIR OWN COMMENTARIES. MCAULIFFE

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